

Gaetano, Carolyn

From: TIM HAWLEY <tchawley@snet.net>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 8:56 AM
To: GAETestimony
Subject: HB6998

I am opposed to the parts of HB6998 that would transfer lands out of a Connecticut state park and a Connecticut state forest. My name is Tim Hawley and I live in Middletown, Connecticut.

Silver Sands is an important and valuable state park. Silver Sands is a small state park, and to take land away from it is not in the interests of the people of Connecticut or the wildlife protected by the park. Using state park land to promote more automobile traffic in this congested shoreline area is short-sighted.

Connecticut has a proud heritage of being the second state in the nation to establish state forests. Giving away 60 or 120 acres of any of our state forests would seem to undermine the conservation purposes for which the land was acquired. The land proposed to be given to the Town of Fairfield appears to be in close proximity to the Hemlock Reservoir and adjacent to additional land of the Centennial State Forest. Carving up a state forest into smaller pieces increases management costs and, if the land use is changed, diminishes wildlife habitat on adjacent land.

The state park and forest land proposed for disposition have been acquired and maintained by public funds of all the people of Connecticut. In addition to the loss of conservation benefits, there appears to be a fiduciary flaw in giving away public land. I urge you to vote against HB6998 as proposed.

Thank you.